

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

STAFF MEETING MINUTES

April 24, 2013

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Henry Heimuller, Commissioner Anthony Hyde and Commissioner Earl Fisher.

Commissioner Heimuller called the meeting to order.

MEETING THE COUNTY UNION REPRESENTATIVES:

The Board met with county union representatives Pam Benham, Erin O'Connell, Dean McMann and Jennifer Waters, along with Human Resources Director Jean Ripa. There was general discussion on county business.

- Erin noted that she appreciated the property tax presentations recently put on by Sue Martin, County Assessor. They were very informative.
- On another subject, Erin proposed the idea of have a hearings officer in the Land Development office for more efficiency. Commissioner Heimuller felt the cost of such a position would need to be covered by any revenue it collected. Commissioner Hyde suggested that Erin put together a proposal for Board consideration.
- When Jean asked if there were any other topics the employees might like more information on, none were proposed.
- There was discussion on the depletion fee and the revenue that generates, along with other various revenue options for the County.

DAMAGE TO WALKER ROAD, SCAPPOOSE:

Dave Hill, Public Works Director, met with the Board to discuss the log hauling on Walker Road from an 80 acre site being logged by owner Longview Timber. Dave understands that

all of timber is all down but there is still likely about 2-3 more weeks of hauling before the job is done. The road is being damaged by the timber haul and it will need to be repaired. Dave and the Board agreed that the timber hauling operator should be responsible for paying a good portion of those repairs.

Dave intends to meet with Longview and ask that they pay their share of the repairs, but that they could offset that cost by allowing the Road Department to use large rip-rap rock from their pit along the trail near Bonnie Falls on the Scappoose Vernonia Hwy. The Road Department proposes to repair both slide areas at Bonnie Falls but in so doing, would need the large rip-rap size rock (and a large quantity of it). The pit that Longview Fibre owns at this location would be ideal for the repair and, if Longview would agree to letting the Road Department use this rock, it would more than cover the cost of the damages to Walker Road from their hauling operation.

Dave noted that when the material is dug out from the slide area on Scappoose Vernonia and Walker Road, it will need to be disposed of. The Road Department proposed to dispose of that material in the large right-of-way in the Chapman area and, in doing so, it would make a parking lot for users of the CZ trail. The Board agreed with this proposal. Dave will be sending a letter to the adjacent property owners in the near future to explain this project.

MUSEUM BOARD:

The Columbia County Museum Association members, Les Walters, Joanne Pellham, Duke Smith, Inky Aulenbacher, Dave Parsons and Barbara Larsen, came before the Board to give a brief update on matters concerning the museum. Their current membership now stands at 47, so it is growing. Their website is now a link on the county website. Members will be working to clean out the remaining items at the Semlings Storage unit. That will eliminate the \$155 monthly cost. In summary, they are all working hard for the success of the museum.

ANIMAL SHELTER/HUMANE SOCIETY:

Sheriff Dickerson came before the Board to ask that they consider a proposal to offer the Columbia Humane Society an agreement that they take over the sole day-to-day operations of the animal shelter. Jeff reviewed the cost saving this would achieve. After discussion, the Board was in agreement and directed the Sheriff to work with County Counsel to prepare

a draft agreement for further consideration.

COPS GRANT:

While present, the Sheriff addressed the recent announcement that the 2013 COPS Hiring Program grant is now open for applications. He explained that the grant would pay 75% of entry level pay and benefits for 3 years and then require the employer to pay 100% of the costs for the 4th year. This grant funding can be used to rehire the CENT Team deputy and possibly a school resource officer. Jeff spoke with the Rainier School District Superintendent who stated that the district would be interested in helping offset those costs.

He noted that the deadline for the application is May 22, 2013. After a brief discussion, the Board expressed their support for this grant however they would ask that Jeff provide more detail on the actual costs. No action taken at this time.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT:

Sue Nelson, City of St. Helens, came before the Board along with Danny Romjue, a Scappoose student working on his Eagle Scout Badge. He is proposing to site a life jacket lending station in the county parking lot near the dock entrance. After some review and discussion, the Board felt this is a very worthwhile project and, if it can save even one life, it will be a success. *With that, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Hyde seconded to approve request by Danny Romjue to site a life jacket lending station in the county parking lot for his Eagle Scout Project. The motion carried unanimously.*

FAIR ISSUES:

Commissioner Heimuller and Sarah Hanson gave the Board an update on two Fair issues. The first is a septic tank encroachment onto the PUD property. The PUD acquired the 1.97 acre parcel from the County in 2010. Despite a survey being conducted by the PUD no one was aware that the Fair septic tank is actually on the property that was partitioned and sold to the PUD. The PUD will be drafting a letter to the Fair Board outlining some options. One option is to do a lot line adjustment to transfer back just the square footage of the tank (approximately 50 x 50). The other option is to do a lot line adjustment and transfer back

the property north of the BPA easement. The PUD would expect to be paid for the later option but it would provide more flexibility to the Fair Board to move the existing road to serve the Little League. Sarah and Henry will keep the Board posted.

The second issue is the Warren Grange license to use the 4H building. The Fair Board is negotiating a long term license with the Grange in consideration for remodeling of the kitchen and bathroom facilities. The term and repayment provisions are being negotiated.

The Board recessed the meeting at 4:30 p.m. and reconvened on Monday, April 29, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. with Commissioner Heimuller, Commissioner Hyde and Commissioner Fisher present.

Commissioner Heimuller called the meeting back to order.

MEETING WITH SHERIFF REGARDING BUDGET:

The Board met with Sheriff Dickerson and Undersheriff Andy Moyer to discuss the FY 2013-14 budget for the Sheriff and Jail. No decisions were made at this time.

There was no Executive Session held.

With nothing further coming before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 24th day of April, 2013.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____

Henry Heimuller, Chair

By: _____

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

By: _____

Jan Greenhalgh,
Board Office Administrator